

Message Text

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67

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /093 W

----- 025568

R 170610Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2189

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 06809

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR DELETION OF THE WORD "THEIR"
FROM LAST SENTENCE NUMBERED PARA 4.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AS, US, VS

SUBJ: CAIRNS ON VIETNAM

REF: STATE 245451

1. SUMMARY : EMBASSY SENT NOTE DEC 14 TO DEPARTMENT
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REQUESTING TEXT OF CAIRN'S REMARKS
IN HANOI OR FAILING ACTUAL TEXT SUBSTANCE OF WHAT CAIRNS
SAID WITH REGARD TO U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM. DFA
IN CURT NOTE DELIVERED DEC 17 STATES IT HAS NO TRANSCRIPT
OF INTERVIEWS GIVEN BY CAIRNS AND FURTHERMORE "SEES NO
GOOD PURPOSE BEING SERVED IN SPECULATING ABOUT (SUCH)
REMARKS." EMBASSY WILL BE INTERESTED TO KNOW WHAT RESPONSE
AMBASSADOR PLIMSOLL PROVIDES TO ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY
SNEIDER ABOUT REPRESENTATIONS MADE IN WASHINGTON (REFTEL).
END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY NOTE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED CONFIRMATION OF
ACCURACY OF NEWS REPORTS OF "EXTRAORDINARILY OFFENSIVE
ALLEGATIONS" ABOUT U.S. GOVERNMENT ATTRIBUTED TO MINISTER
FOR OVERSEAS TRADE DR. JAMES CAIRNS IN HANOI. OUR
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NOTE ASKED WHETHER FOLLOWING PURPORTED STATEMENTS BY

CAIRNS WERE ACCURATE:

(A) THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE HAD BEEN VICTIMS OF AGGRESSION
AND AMERICAN INTERVENTION IN VIETNAM COULD BE DESCRIBED
ONLY AS AGGRESSION.

(B) PARIS AGREEMENT REPRESENTS VICTORY FOR NORTH VIETNAM
AND PRG AND "AN UNACCEPTABLE DEFEAT FOR THE UNITED STATES."

(C) U.S. ADMINISTRATIONS PRESENT AND FUTURE WOULD TRY TO
MAINTAIN CONTROL OF SAIGON GOVERNMENT AND AS MUCH TERRITORY
IN VIETNAM AS POSSIBLE.

3. DFA NOTE STATES NO TRANSCRIPTS OF INTERVIEWS GIVEN BY
CAIRNS IN HANOI ARE "AVAILABLE " TO DFA. NOTE CONTINUES
THAT DFA "SEES NO GOOD PURPOSE BEING SERVED IN SPECULATING
ABOUT REMARKS REPORTEDLY MADE BY DR. CAIRNS IN HANOI-
DFA NOTE CONCLUDES THAT AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S POSITION
TOWARD SITUATION IN VIETNAM HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR BY BOTH
PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN ANSWERS
TO QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT DECEMBER 12 AND 13.

4. COMMENT: DFA NOTE IN REPLY TO EMBASSY NOTE ASKING FOR
TEXT OR SUBSTANCE OF CAIRNS' HANOI REMARKS IS COMPLETELY
UNRESPONSIVE. PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENTS REFERRED TO IN DFA
NOTE DO NOT ADDRESS QUESTIONS POSED IN EMBASSY NOTE. TONE
AND BREVITY OF DFA NOTE SUGGESTS AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INTENDS
TO CLOSE DOOR ON ANY PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF CAIRNS' REPORTED
REMARKS. WE WOULD THEREFORE BE VERY INTERESTED IN KNOWING
RESPONSE WHICH PLIMSOLL PROVIDES TO SNEIDER ON THIS SUBJECT.
IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE DFA-EMBASSY EXCHANGE OF NOTES
IS UNCLASSIFIED CARRYING WITH IT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE
EXCHANGE OF NOTES MIGHT BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE ; THOUGH WE
DO NOT RECOMMEND RELEASING THE EXCHANGE.
GREEN

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Message Attributes

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